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RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

June 4, 2021

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
2205 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Calvert:

Re: Prado Dam Spillway  
Mural Funding Request

I am writing to thank you for your support of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) and the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (Project), as authorized by Section 401(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, PL 99-662 as modified by Section 309 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (PL104-303), and to request your assistance in securing additional Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding for the Santa Ana River Basin in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Program in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for the removal of the lead-based paint mural from the Prado Dam Spillway; Prado Dam is a major feature of the Project, and the lead-based paint must be removed in order to construct the remaining spillway improvements. We are specifically seeking an additional \$2,500,000 for the lead-based paint removal in addition to the budgeted amount of \$6,572,000 for a total of \$9,072,000 FY 2022 for the Santa Ana River Basin in Corps O&M funding.

The mural was painted in 1976 by Corona High School students and commemorates the Bicentennial celebration of America's freedom. The mural is prominently visible from nearby highways and freeways and serves as a visual reminder of American patriotism, of the historic visit by President Ford, and of its role as a source of pride for hundreds of thousands of commuters and local community members as they pass the mural every day on the 91 Freeway and California State Route 71. Unfortunately, the mural has faded and been subject to graffiti in recent years, and as a result, the community has been strongly advocating for its restoration. As a matter of fact, the lead-based paint contract was originally awarded and scheduled for completion in 2014. Unfortunately, the Corps did not have a plan for the restoration of the mural, and the local community sought and obtained an injunction to prevent the removal of the mural while the State Historic Preservation Office evaluated the historical significance of the mural.

In the intervening years, local agencies, mural advocates, and the Corps have worked together to develop a plan for the removal and restoration of the mural. The litigation is expected to be dismissed this month, and it is critical to local interests that the mural be removed and restored as quickly as possible. It is the hope of the local agencies and advocates that the restored mural can be completed by July 4, 2022.

This funding request for removal of the lead-based paint is the necessary and logical next step in the mural's restoration. It should be made clear that the mural advocates have agreed to bear all costs for the restoration of the mural, and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has agreed to incur necessary costs to maintain the mural.

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Re: Prado Dam Spillway  
Mural Funding Request

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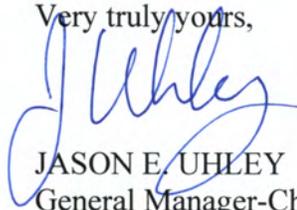
June 4, 2021

We have been working closely with the Corps' Los Angeles District to schedule the removal of lead paint, for approval of necessary license agreements and other actions necessary to restore the mural, to protect the downstream ecosystems, and to facilitate the future improvements to the Prado Dam Spillway. As previously noted, the lead-based paint was originally scheduled to be removed in 2014. This requested funding will enable the Corps' Los Angeles District to perform this work with the support of the local community and with the common goal of restoring the mural in early 2022 so that it can again be enjoyed by the community until the future dam improvements are completed.

I greatly appreciate your past and ongoing support of the Project and appreciate any actions that you take to prioritize the Los Angeles District's funding needs to remove the lead-based paint from the Prado Dam Spillway.

Please feel free to contact me at 951.955.1250 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



JASON E. UHLEY  
General Manager-Chief Engineer

c: Richie O'Connell, [Richie.O'Connell@mail.house.gov](mailto:Richie.O'Connell@mail.house.gov)

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# *Friends of the Prado Dam Mural*

Artists / Historians / Elected Officials / An Engaged Public

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Prado Dam Mural  
June 5 2021

Dear Congressman Calvert,

With the support of 40,000 petitioners, the County, the five Cities that surround the Mural, along with an engaged Community, The Friends of the Prado Dam Mural thank you for your support to keep our Community art work, which has become a source of pride for the entire region.

As you know, the Mural was conceived of, and painted by 20 girls and 10 boys from the local High School in 1976. Since that time, it has become beloved by the community and a gateway element to the area. The Dept. of Interior also found our Mural reflects the undertaking, efforts, and views of the community, and has come to symbolize the enduring contribution valued by the generation that erected the property.

In this several year process to bring the mural back to it's former state. The Stakeholders have worked with yourself, the Army Corps of Engineers and Riverside County, to Identify shared goals and seek options that allow for mutual gain. The care and interest that you, your staff, the County and the Corps has shown, is greatly appreciated by all the Stakeholders.

Friends of the Prado Dam Mural support funding for the removal of lead from the spillway, as the next process to re paint the mural. We have The Mural Conservancy of Los Angeles, (who restored the world famous 1984 Olympic Murals, located on the 101 freeway in Los Angeles) ready to contract with the County, in order to complete the repaint in 2022.

Thank You  
Peter Usle  
President: Friends of the Prado Dam Mural